



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: June 2, 2011

UPDATED: Additional County Added to Disaster Declaration

*Unemployment Assistance Now Available to Workers in **1 Additional County; 43 Counties Total***

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that **one additional county** has been added to the federal disaster declaration that provides for assistance for workers who became unemployed as a direct result of recent severe storms, tornados, straight-line winds, and flooding in **Escambia** County may qualify for unemployment assistance.

Counties previously designated are **Autauga, Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Choctaw, Clarke, Colbert, Coosa, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hale, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Morgan, Perry, Pickens, Shelby, St. Clair, Sumter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Washington, and Winston.**

People who live in or worked in these counties and become unemployed due to the severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, and straight-line winds during the period of April 15, 2011, and continuing may be eligible for the assistance under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program, which was triggered when President Obama designated the area as a disaster area on April 28, 2011.

“In most cases, people affected by these storms will be able to receive regular unemployment compensation,” said Surtees. “However, there are circumstances where regular unemployment compensation is not applicable, and that’s where Disaster Unemployment Assistance comes in. If you believe you are entitled to these benefits, I urge you to file a claim to see if you are eligible.”

People who may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance include the following: individuals who no longer have a job, are unable to reach the place of employment, or were scheduled to start work in the major disaster area and the job no longer exists; those who became the breadwinner or major support of the family because the head of household died, or those who cannot work because of an injury incurred during the major disaster. All of the previously described circumstances must be as a direct result of the storms. Self-employed individuals must provide a copy of their 2010 income tax records.

Claims can be filed through DIR’s website at www.dir.alabama.gov or by calling 1-866-234-5382. The deadline to file a DUA claim is **June 30, 2011**, for Escambia County.

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Claims can be filed through DIR's website at www.dir.alabama.gov or by calling 1-866-234-5382. The deadline to file a DUA claim is **June 3, 2011**, for Chambers, Clarke, and Perry counties.

Claims can be filed through DIR's website at www.dir.alabama.gov or by calling 1-866-234-5382. The deadline to file a DUA claim is **June 2, 2011**, for Lamar, and Lauderdale counties.

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.